



The Hindu Simplefied

Daily News Update | February 8, 2026

Complex news, plain English.

Today's Highlights



1. **The Big Story: India-US Trade Deal**

Taxes down, Farmers safe.



2. **National Update: Voter Crisis & Mining Tragedy**

Orphans left out of lists.



3. **World Watch: Ukraine & Pakistan**

Deadlines for peace, rising tensions.



4. **Science & Tech: Hearing Loss & Aviation**

Concert risks and cockpit scares.



5. **Sports & Nature: T20 World Cup & Cheetahs**

India wins, new cubs in Kuno.



Major Update: India-US Trade Deal

Cheaper exports, protected farmers.

Key Takeaways:

- **Taxes Dropping:** US cuts import taxes on Indian goods (50% → 18%).
- **Start Date:** Effective February 7, 2026.
- **Farmers Safe:** Sensitive crops (Wheat, Rice, Poultry) are EXCLUDED from the deal.
- **Quid Pro Quo:** India lowers taxes on US berries, nuts, and industrial goods.

The Deal: By The Numbers

\$500 Billion

A horizontal progress bar with a red segment on the left and a grey segment on the right, representing approximately 15% of the total length.

Value of US products India will buy over 5 years (Energy, Aircraft, Tech).

18%

A horizontal progress bar with a red segment on the left and a grey segment on the right, representing approximately 18% of the total length.

New reduced tax rate for Indian goods entering the US.

25%

A horizontal progress bar with a red segment on the left and a grey segment on the right, representing approximately 25% of the total length.

Extra "punitive tariff" removed by US President Trump.

“This framework reflects the growing depth, trust and dynamism of our partnership.” — PM Narendra Modi

The Voter List Crisis

Why orphans are being left out of the polls.



The Context: West Bengal is strictly updating voter lists. Citizens must prove their parentage to stay enrolled.

The Problem: Orphans raised in state-run homes cannot prove who their parents are. Despite having Aadhaar and Voter IDs, they are being marked as “unmapped”.

The Consequence: Vulnerable citizens risk losing their voting rights due to a system that ignores their reality.

India Roundup

Meghalaya Tragedy



Meghalaya Tragedy

Toll rises to 27 in the coal mine explosion as rescue efforts continue.

Kerala High Court



Kerala High Court

Court rejects plea to ban Christian priests from a temple. Verdict: Harmony comes before rigid rules.

J&K Dal Lake



J&K Dal Lake

Govt drops ₹416-crore resettlement project after 17 years. Only 27% progress achieved.

World Watch

- **Russia-Ukraine War:** US sets a 'June Deadline' for a peace deal. President Zelenskyy confirms pressure to end the war by summer.
- **Pakistan:** ISIS affiliate claims responsibility for a deadly mosque bombing in Islamabad (36 dead).
- **Sudan:** Drone attack by Rapid Support Forces kills 24 civilians, including 8 children.



Neighborhood Updates

Iran & US Talks

Direct talks starting 'soon'. Foreign Minister Araghchi calls recent dialogue a 'good start' but insists nuclear enrichment is an 'inalienable right'.



Bangladesh Elections

Minority communities seek security assurances ahead of the February 12 national election.

Health & Aviation Check

Protect Your Ears



New study: Loud music causes 'temporary hearing dampening.' Regular earplug use prevents long-term damage.

Scare in the Sky



Air India Boeing 787 incident: Fuel switch accidentally moved to 'Cutoff' before takeoff. Similar to a past crash issue.

Nature Watch



Good News

Baby Boom at Kuno

Namibian cheetah 'Aasha' gives birth to 5 new cubs at Kuno National Park.

Conflict

Tiger Trouble in Andhra

Rising human-tiger conflict reported. A tiger has killed 20 cattle, sparking fear in local villages.

T20 World Cup Highlights



India Wins:

Suryakumar Yadav plays a match-winning innings against USA.

Mental Edge:

Italy hires a sports psychologist to help players handle big-stadium pressure.

West Indies:

Romario Shepherd takes **5 wickets** to defeat Scotland.

Drama Off The Field



The Standoff: Pakistan vs. ICC

The Event:

- Pakistan refuses to play India in Colombo on Feb 15.

The Reason:

- Government directive citing “Force Majeure” (Unforeseen Events).

The Status:

- PCB and ICC are in formal dialogue to decide if this forfeiture is valid.

Quick Recap

- **Trade:** India-US deal cuts taxes to 18%; farmers protected.
- **National:** Voter rules hurting orphans; Meghalaya mine toll rises.
- **World:** US pushes for June peace deal in Ukraine.
- **Health:** Watch your hearing at concerts; Digital addiction is a budget focus.
- **Nature:** Cheetah population grows in Kuno.
- **Sports:** India wins in T20; Pakistan refuses Colombo match.